

# Russ Speed Up Arms Airlift to Rebels

STATINTL

BY WILLIAM ANDERSON  
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, April 29 — President Kennedy met for more than two hours today with a score of members of his administration to discuss the crisis in southeast Asia.

There was no announcement of a proposed course of action



Dulles (left) and Rusk arriving yesterday for conference on Laos.

but observers speculated moves to halt rebel troop advances in Laos and communist harassment in Viet Nam might shape up as:

1. Military intervention thru the Southeast Asia Treaty organization [SEATO].
2. Formal charges in the United Nations of communist aggression in the two small countries which are flanked by Red China.

## Reds Step Up Airlift

Importance of the meeting was underlined by the number of high government officials present. All members of the national security council were on hand. Dean Rusk, secretary of state, who returned to the capital at 6:55 a. m. today from a conference in Turkey, also was present.

Meanwhile, the state department said that Russia has stepped up its airlift to pro-communist rebels in Laos by "a considerable degree." It also said the rebels are attacking government-held positions at four points.

Another meeting of the security council has been called for Monday afternoon.

## Hear Lemnitzer Reports

It was understood that late communications were presented at the meeting from Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, who is now in Asia and due to arrive in Bangkok, Thailand, tomorrow in time for a special meeting of SEATO representatives.

Averell Harriman, roving ambassador for the United States, was in Vientiane, Laos capital, to prepare first hand reports on the fighting for the President.

Advances of communist supported rebels reportedly continue in Laos, despite a cease-fire appeal agreed upon by the British and the Russians.

Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, told reporters after the meeting he would not answer questions as to whether a decision had been made for a course of action at the conference.

## Same Roster Monday

He said the officials had "discussed problems dealing with southeast Asia," adding that the Monday meeting would be on the same problem. Salinger indicated that most of the officials present at the White House today would return Monday.

Among those identified as present were the five statutory members of the National Security council: the President, Vice President Johnson, Rusk, Sec-

retary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, and Frank B. Ellis, director of the office of civilian defense mobilization.

Others included Douglas Dillon, secretary of the treasury; David E. Bell, budget director; Adm. Arleigh E. Burke, who was acting for Lemnitzer; Allen Dulles, director of the central intelligence agency; Edward R. Murrow, director of the United States information agency.

Chester Bowles, undersecretary of state; Roswell Gilpatrick, deputy director of defense; McGeorge Bundy and W. W. Rostow, presidential security advisers; Jerome H. Wiesner, Presidential science adviser; George C. McGhee, counselor of the state department; Alexis Johnson, deputy undersecretary of state; Paul Nitze, assistant secretary of defense.

## Gen. Taylor Present

Lt. Gen. Lionel C. McGarr, chief of the United States military assistance group in Viet Nam, Frederick E. Nolting Jr., United States ambassador to Viet Nam.

Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy; Charles E. Bohlen, special state department adviser on Russian affairs; Brig. Gen. Chester V. Clifton, military aid to the President. Also on hand was Gen. Maxwell Taylor, former army chief of staff recalled to service last week by the President to help in a study of why the invasion against Cuba failed. The list was made public by Salinger.

Salinger reported that the President met with all the officials, then conferred with a smaller group which he did not identify. It was the sixth meeting of the security council since the President took office, and the third in the last eight days. Former President Eisenhower met with the committee every week.

Today's meeting came after President Kennedy sought non-partisan support of his foreign policy in the last 10 days with leaders of the Republican party. He held conferences with Eisenhower; his Presidential campaign rival, Richard M. Nixon, and the two leading members of opposite wings of the G. O. P. — Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.) and Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York.

## Sound Warning in Chicago

Friday he flew to New York City to confer with Adlai E. Stevenson, United States ambassador in the United Nations, former President Hoover, and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. From there he flew on to speak at a \$100 a plate political rally in Chicago.

In his speech President Kennedy pointed to the seriousness of the world situation by saying:

"Now our great responsibility is to be the chief defender of freedom, in this time of maximum danger. Only the United States has the power and the resources and the determination. We have committed ourselves to the defense of dozens of countries stretched around the globe, who look to us for independence, who look to us for the defense of freedom."

"We are prepared to meet our obligations, but we can only defend the freedom of those who are determined to be free themselves. We can assist them — we will bear more than our share of the burden, but we can only help those who are ready to bear their share of the burden themselves."

## U. S. Chief Defender

"The Russians and the Chinese, containing within their borders nearly a billion people, totally mobilized for the advance of the communist system, operating from narrow interior lines of communication, pressuring on southeast Asia with masses of Chinese armies potentially ready to move — of the Russians who hold great power potentially in the middle east and western Europe — the United States stands as the chief defender of freedom."

The President returned to Washington at 1:05 a. m. from Chicago and went into the security conference at 10:30 a. m.

When the conference ended, he boarded a helicopter on the White House lawn and flew to Middleburg, Va., to spend the week-end with his family at their rented estate.

The army signal corps has installed an elaborate communication system at the estate which can keep him informed of the latest moves by Communists.